

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057437

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RON GOODISON AT FSI HAS SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PLANNING THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSE TO BEGIN IN AUGUST IF WE COULD HAVE SOME INFORMAL FEEDBACK FROM POST OFFICERS WHO COMPLETED THE COURSE LAST SUMMER AND SINCE. WHAT IS DESIRED IS AN ASSESSMENT OF (A) IN WHAT SPECIFIC WAYS THE TRAINING DID NOT MEET THE PRACTICAL NEEDS OF THE OFFICERS IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND IN GETTING AROUND GENERALLY, (B)WHAT SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES IF ANY THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED BETWEEN THE LANGUAGE AS TAUGHT AND AS SOVIETS SPEAK IT, AND (C) WHETHER THERE ARE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE WAY TRAINING PREPARES OFFICERS FOR CONTINUED STUDY AT POST. WE SUPPORT THIS SUGGESTION AND WONDER IF, INSTEAD OF USING A QUESTIONNAIRE APPROACH, WHETHER ONE OFFICER COULD BE ASKED TO PREPARE A REPORT INCORPORATING THE COMMENTS OF THE OTHERS.
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COULD WE HAVE YOUR REACTION.

2. I AM CATCHING WHAT-FOR BECAUSE I INSISTED ON DELIVERING THE GROMYKO LETTER ON PNE'S IN MOSCOW RATHER THAN HERE. WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORTS THIS CHANNEL ON EFFORTS TO TRACE MISSING POUCH.

3. CABLE MAY BE SENT TO AMBASSADOR IN OTHER CHANNELS SOON ON VISITING EXPERTS WITH ACCELERATED TIME TABLE. I SAW DRAFT WHICH INDICATED OTHER THAN PASSIVE OPERATIONS ARE CONTEMPLATED. I SAID WE WOULD WANT TO KNOW MORE AND SO WOULD AMBASSADOR. EXPLANATION WAS THAT ONLY PASSIVE OPERATIONS WOULD BE INVOLVED IN EARLY PHASES AND THAT OTHER ASPECTS WOULD BE THOROUGHLY VETTED AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH AMBASSADOR IN MAY. IF CABLE ARRIVES IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED IT HAS DEPARTMENT'S CLEARANCE, ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH TIMING GIVEN PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO PROJECT AND ASSUMING VISITORS WILL FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP.

4. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, LA TIMES THIS EVENING TELEPHONED TO SAY THEIR MAN IN BELGRADE REPORTS GROMYKO SUFFERED HEART ATTACK.

5. MARSHALL TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF TOLYA'S BEING IN TODAY (SUBSTANCE REPORTED SEPTEL) TO RAISE OUR CONCERN OVER NONFULFILLMENT OF AGREEMENT ON APARTMENTS. TOLYA NOTED AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED AND HE CABLED MOSCOW; MARSHALL URGED HIM TO SEND ANOTHER CABLE.

6. MKRTUMOV TOLD TONY SOLOMON MARCH 3 THAT PATOLICHEV SUGGESTS THE WEEK OF MAY 29 FOR THE JOINT COMMERCIAL CO-MISSION MEETING. TREASURY IS TELLING MKRTUMOV (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH BLUMEN-CONFIDENTIAL

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THAL) THAT WE WOULD PREFER NOVEMBER. WE ARE PREPARING A CABLE ON THE TIMING OF THE COMMISSION MEETING AND ON A SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR MRS. KREPS FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO USE IN A MEETING WITH PATOLICHEV.

7. WE HEAR RUMORS THAT SCOTT HAS TOLD THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL HE WANTS TO RESIGN. THE COUNCIL STILL HASN'T FOUND SOMEONE TO SERVE AS US CO-CHAIRMAN.

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